



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KANSAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VOTE FRAUD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to voting in federal elections in both Kansas and Missouri.

Lorraine E. Goodrich, 39, of Prairie Village, Kan., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays this morning to a federal information that charges her with voting fraud, a misdemeanor civil rights violation. The information, which was filed on Dec. 13, 2004, replaces a criminal complaint filed against **Goodrich** on Oct. 21, 2004.

Goodrich was the owner of Food Staff Specialists, LLC, which had a business address of 912 Baltimore Ave. in Kansas City, Mo., but is no longer located at that address. **Goodrich** provided that business address as her residence to election officials at a Kansas City, Mo., polling place in order to vote in the Nov. 5, 2002, general election in Missouri, Graves explained. **Goodrich** had already voted at a Johnson County, Kan. polling place.

“This was an offense against the civil rights of all Missouri voters,” Graves said. “By illegally voting twice, **Goodrich** diluted the votes cast by the qualified voters of Missouri. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees qualified voters the right to have their votes counted without being diluted by spurious ballots cast by unqualified voters.”

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow